

**HISTORY**  
**OF THE**  
**YELLOW CREEK LAKE**  
**CAMP GROUND**

**By HUBERT JOHNSTON**



## History of the Yellow Creek Lake Camp Ground

There are places in our lives that have grown to have great significance because of the spiritual blessings that we have received there. This is the case of many who have become acquainted with the place known as the Yellow Creek Lake Camp Ground.

This area is particularly outstanding to us as it is very near to Beaver Dam where D. S. Warner took his stand for truth and began what is known as the Church of God Reformation Movement. Others followed in this stand in the same meeting.

In the year 1886 there was a Grove Meeting held one mile north of Olive Bethel Church, which is located five miles northwest of Akron, Indiana. This meeting was held on the farm of Wm. W. Ballenger, and was conducted by D. S. Warner, S. L. Speck, S. Michels, A. B. Palmer and J. C. and Allie Fisher.

The following year, 1887, it was thought wise to move to a more permanent location, which opened the way for the Camp Meeting to be held in the John Kuhn woods a half mile east of Olive Bethel. The camp meeting was held here until the year 1891.

At this location there was erected a rough lumber tabernacle, and the seats were without backs. This being erected by the labor of consecrated men who wanted to see God's work go forward. There was a long hitch-rack made for those who drove to secure their horses while they were in the services.

In the year 1892 the Camp Meeting was moved to the farm of David Leininger, and was conducted there until the year of 1896. David Leininger had opened his home to all that it could possibly accomodate, as well as others in the community who were sympathetic to this

great work. God was blessing and more souls were being saved and taking their stand for the truth.

Of course all was not smooth work for as God led these consecrated people on in the battle for the unity of his people, there is one enemy of truth and unity at all times. The Devil was on the job. There would be time after time in which the service would be conducted in the midst of a shower of eggs (rotten or otherwise), tomatoes, or anything that was convenient to throw. On one occasion while the heckling was going on an electrical storm came, and those who were doing the persecuting became so frightened that they ran in and got as close to the saints of God as they could, for they were sure that God would not strike his people.

Yes, these were days of persecution and hardship, for there wasn't the easy means of transportation that we have today. People came to these meetings in horse drawn wagons, upon which crude seats had been placed. Many drove in this way from Missouri, Illinois, Michigan and other surrounding states, as well as a great number from various places in Indiana. Others would come to nearby towns by train, and David Leininger would take his team and wagon to furnish transportation the rest of the way. Many times he would spend the entire night bringing people in from the station.

What zeal and enthusiasm these people had for the cause of God. As we observe the onward march of these faithful souls, we see them take a new step of faith as they purchase 12½ acres of land on the south bank of Yellow Creek Lake. This was done in the year of 1897, and again faithful men of God gave of their time and labor for the land must be cleared before there could be any Camp Meeting. Later four more acres were purchased.

When the land was cleared they erected a cloth tabernacle for the services to be conducted.

As the years rolled by there were new needs presented for the attendance was increasing, and there was the need of better facilities. In the year of 1904 the dining hall and ladies' dormitory were erected, and in 1906 the tabernacle that is now in use and the men's dormitory were built. During the years that have followed other buildings and improvements have been made. The latest building, a youth cabin, being built in 1948 and 1949. The building of this cabin was sponsored by the youth of Northern Indiana.

During the early years of these Camp Meetings, D. S. Warner did the major portion of the preaching, assisted by his company, and other ministers that were present. As the number of ministers increased the method of Holy Spirit direction concerning who was to preach in each service was put into practice. The ministers would go to the platform and when it came time for the message the one of them that felt God's hand on them for that message would go to the pulpit and bring the message. In later years we have used the method of a program committee, who have prayerfully planned and sought God's guidance for the speakers for each service.

D. S. Warner passed away possibly two years before the Camp Meeting was moved to Yellow Creek Lake Camp Ground. However, his labor for the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God has had a very direct bearing upon the present Camp Meeting that we are privileged to enjoy.

There have been many times that the crowds have been so great that we have had overflow meetings held out on the grounds during the regular services to accommodate the people.

In the present day our outreach is not so great, concerning the other states, but the crowds are splendid and God is blessing with His presence in the services

that are being conducted. There used to be only the Camp Meeting that was held each year, while now the summer months are filled with youth camps, missionary retreats, and many other events and services that better fit God's people for the work that is set before us.

We can only feel at the end of this short history of the Yellow Creek Lake Camp Ground that were the leaders of the early work here with us today with their zeal and enthusiasm and with the great vision for the Kingdom of God, they would rejoice to see that this Camp Ground is still a place that is dedicated to God, and is used more than ever before for the winning of souls to Christ and the cause of truth, as well as training the people of God for better service than before.

May we, each one, who are enjoying this great inheritance from these who have gone before us, keep clear the call of truth that the Kingdom of God shall be built up and advance be ever before us until we meet our Lord.

---

We would also list those who have sacrificially given of time and effort to serve as manager and caretakers. Any names that have been omitted are not intentional.

Managers were: R. N. Gast; W. C. Gray; Eli Gerig, Forrest Higgins.

Caretakers were: Thomas Tolin; Johnny Palmer; May and Mary White; Squire Barr; J. N. Howard; Arthur Powell; Ross Helvey.

---

**Publication Committee:**

Rev. H. D. Johnston, Chairman

Oliver Leininger

Jesse Swick

Andrew White



